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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

10/1/2020

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BY: CW DEPUTY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ALLYZA CAHILIG, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

V.

IKEA U.S. RETAIL, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company; and DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

CLASS ACTION

Case No.: 2:19-cv-01182-CJC (AS)

ORDER AND JUDGEMENT GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, ATTORNEY FEES, COSTS AND CLASS REPRESENTATIVE ENHANCEMENT

Date: October 1, 2020 Time: 1:30 p.m. Courtroom: 9B

Honorable Cormac J. Carney

Action filed: January 10, 2019 Trial Date: July 7, 2020

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The Plaintiff and Class Members, as defined below, and the settling Defendant IKEA US RETAIL LLC. (hereinafter "Defendant" or "IKEA") have entered into an agreement to settle the above-captioned class action. The Settlement provides for the payment of compensation to each Settlement Class Member.

Pursuant to the Preliminary Approval Hearing and Order, this Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement. (Dkt. 48.) The Preliminary Approval Order also approved the Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Notice") and the notice plan. The Court entered the Preliminary Approval Order after review and consideration of all of the pleadings filed in connection herewith.

In compliance with the Preliminary Approval Order, Notice was sent to all Class Members via first-class mail. Furthermore, multiple follow-up mailings were performed for returned mail in addition to the distribution of the Notice to Class Members requesting copies. The notice plan was timely completed.

This matter is now before the Court on Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval of the Class Action Settlement, Attorney Fees, Costs and Class Representative Enhancement. The Court has read, heard, and considered all the pleadings and documents submitted, and the presentations made in connection with the Motion which came for hearing on October 1, 2020. This Court finds that the proposed settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, has no obvious deficiencies, and does not improperly grant preferential treatment to any individuals. The Court finds that the settlement was entered into in good faith. The Court further finds that the settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate and that Plaintiff has satisfied the standards for final approval of a class action settlement under federal law. Under the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, the Court has discretion to certify a class where: [Q]uestions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to the available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy... Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 23(b)(3).

Certification of a class is the appropriate judicial device under these circumstances.

Based on the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of the Settlement Class Members asserted in this proceeding and over all parties to the action.

adopted and incorporated herein by reference, this Court finds that the applicable requirements of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 has been satisfied with respect

to the Settlement Class and the proposed settlement.

Anais Paez, Curtis Gutierrez and Melvin Shuman.

3. The Class Definition is as follows: all current and former hourly-paid, non-exempt employees employed by Defendant in California during the Class

Period, defined as January 10, 2015, through March 31, 2020. It shall be an opt-out

For the reasons set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order, which are

class.

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4. The Notice given to the Settlement Class Members fully and accurately informed the Class Members of all material elements of the proposed settlement and of their opportunity to request exclusion, object or comment thereon; was the best notice practicable under the circumstances; was valid, due and sufficient notice to all Class Members; and complied fully with the laws of the State of California, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution, due process and other applicable law. The Notice fairly and adequately described the settlement and provided Class Members adequate instructions and a variety of means to obtain additional information. A full opportunity has been afforded to the Settlement Class Members to participate in this hearing, and all Settlement Class Members and other persons wishing to be heard have been heard. Accordingly, the Court determines that all Settlement Class Members who did not timely and properly opt out are bound by this judgment and order. There are seven (7) opt outs to this settlement from the following individuals: Ronald Anderson, Robert Flipp, Jocelyn Park, Kali Bell,

- 5. Pursuant to California law and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), the Court hereby grants final approval to the settlement and finds that it is fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class Members as a whole. Accordingly, the Court hereby directs that the settlement be effected in accordance with the Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and PAGA Settlement and Release of Claims and the following terms and conditions.
- 6. With this final approval of the proposed settlement, it is hereby ordered that all members of the Settlement Class who have not opted out of the Settlement Class fully release and discharge Defendant, and also all of the Defendant's past, present and/or future, direct and/or indirect, officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, attorneys, insurers, partners, investors, shareholders, administrators, parent companies, partners, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, predecessors, successors, assigns, benefits plans, joint venturers, and any individual or entity that could be liable for any of the Released Claims. The release shall cover any claims arising within the scope of the lawsuit arising any time up to and including March 31, 2020.
- 7. The Class Representative additionally waive all rights and benefits afforded by California Civil Code §1542 and do so understanding the significance of that waiver. Section 1542 provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

- 8. It is hereby ordered that a Class Representative Enhancement of \$10,000 to Allyza Cahilig is fair and reasonable.
- 9. It is hereby ordered that the attorney fee request of \$1,859,435, \$22,706.94 as costs of litigation and \$39,555 as costs for the Claims Administrator fees, which amounts shall be paid out of the total settlement amount as set forth in this

settlement is hereby granted pursuant to federal law because, *inter alia*, Plaintiff's counsels' request falls within the range of reasonableness and the result achieved justifies the award.

- 10. It is hereby ordered that the \$50,000 PAGA payment shall be made, with \$37,500 payable to the Labor Workforce Development Agency and shall be paid out of the total settlement amount as set forth in this settlement.
- 11. Without affecting the finality of this matter, this Court shall retain exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over this action and the parties, including all Settlement Class Members, for purposes of supervising, administering, implementing, and enforcing, and interpreting the settlement, and the claims process thereunder.

JUDGMENT

In accordance with, and for the reasons stated in this Order, judgment shall be entered whereby the representative Plaintiff and all Settlement Class Members shall take nothing from Defendant, except as expressly set forth in the Joint Stipulation of Class Action And PAGA Settlement And Release of Claims, which was previously filed, as part of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class Action Settlement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: October 1, 2020

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HON. CORMAC J. CARNEY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE